

Appl. No. 10/624,954
Amdt. dated 7/10/07
Reply to Office action of 4/10/07

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and certified copy of the German priority application.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application and are subject to examination. No claims have been amended, added or canceled herein.

In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103," Item 2 on pages 2-5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 1,542,027 to Blaine in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,974 to Wadlinger et al. (hereinafter Wadlinger) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a device for throwing-on impression and throwing-off impression in a printing press, comprising:

an impression cylinder;

at least one of a form and a blanket cylinder;

an applicator roller;

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a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said applicator roller on and off said at least one of said form and said blanket cylinder, said roller throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted first actuating element;

a cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said at least one of said form and said blanket cylinder on and off said impression cylinder, said cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted second actuating element;

a coupler forming a coupler mechanism together with said first and said second actuating elements; and

a thrust joint having a dead thrust travel and articulately connecting one of said actuating elements to said coupler.

Independent claim 8 calls for, *inter alia*, a printing press, comprising:

an impression cylinder;

at least one of a form and a blanket cylinder;

an applicator roller; and

a device for throwing-on impression and throwing-off impression, said device including:

a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said applicator roller on and off said at least one of said form and said blanket cylinder, said roller throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted first actuating element;

a cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing said at least one of said form and said blanket cylinder on and off said impression cylinder, said cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing including a rotatably mounted second actuating element;

a coupler forming a coupler mechanism together with said first and said second actuating elements; and

a thrust joint having a dead thrust travel and articulately connecting one of said actuating elements to said coupler.

The Blaine reference discloses an inking roll trip mechanism for printing presses, having a main frame 12 on which a form cylinder 10 and a blanket cylinder 11 are

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mounted. The blanket cylinder 11 is to be engaged by a non-illustrated impression cylinder. Form inking rollers 14, vibratory rollers 9 and rider rollers 15 are mounted on a roller frame 16, which is in turn mounted in the main frame 12. Arms 21 are articulated between links 23, 28 and cams 20. The cams 20 move the roller frame 16 upward to raise the form inking rollers 14 upward out of engagement with the form cylinder 10. Therefore, Blaine discloses a coupling drive for throwing off (or disengaging) the rollers 14.

Wadlinger teaches a sheet-guiding device for a printing press in which a printing unit 5 has an impression cylinder 7 and an applicator cylinder 9. As is shown in Fig. 6, a sheet guiding device 15 has a sheet guiding element 14. A transmission mechanism 26 coupling the sheet guiding element 14 to the applicator cylinder 9 has a pivoting lever 27 and a coupling bar 28. A rotary and thrust joint 29 connects one end of the coupling bar 28 to the pivoting lever 27, while the other end is connected to the applicator cylinder 9. An actuator 25 displaces the applicator cylinder 9 for withdrawal from the impression cylinder 7 and displaces the sheet guiding element 14 into a nip 13.

Therefore, Wadlinger provides a mechanism for adjusting the sheet guiding element 14 and that mechanism connects the sheet guiding element 14 to the cylinder 9 (see column 6, lines 46-47 of Wadlinger). Since the cylinder 9 can be engaged with or disengaged from the impression cylinder 7 (see column 4, lines 60-62), the cylinder 9 can be compared with the form and/or rubber blanket cylinder 3 of the invention of the instant application. The cylinder 9 of Wadlinger is also comparable to the rubber blanket cylinder 11 in Blaine.

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Even though Blaine implicitly discloses a cylinder throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing the rubber blanket cylinder 11 on and off an impression cylinder (see page 1, lines 43-45 of Blaine), Blaine does not disclose a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing the applicator roller 14 on and off the rubber blanket cylinder 11. The roller throw-on and throw-off bearing disclosed in Blaine instead serves for throwing the applicator roller 14 on and off the form cylinder 10.

It can be seen in Fig. 1 of Blaine that the applicator roller 14 cannot be thrown on the rubber blanket cylinder 11, and for that reason a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing the applicator roller 14 on the rubber blanket cylinder 11 cannot exist in Blaine. However, the presence of such a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing is required by claim 1 of the instant application.

It is respectfully believed that the Examiner has incorrectly alleged that the joint 29 in Wadlinger is part of a mechanism for throwing a cylinder on and off. Instead, the joint 29 is part of a mechanism for adjusting a sheet guiding element 14 (see column 5, lines 45-46 and column 6, lines 46-58 of Wadlinger).

In addition, Applicant strongly disagrees with the Examiner's allegation that the use of the joint 29 of Wadlinger in the coupling drive in Blaine would lead to a better positioning control of the coupling drive (see page 3, line 6 of the Office action). The joint in Wadlinger is principally an elongated hole. The Examiner basically assumes that it would be obvious not to form any joint bore (hole) in Blaine as a circle but instead as an elongated hole. It is believed to be entirely clear to a

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person of ordinary skill in the art that such a measure would lead to a decline in operation, if not even the inoperability of the machine, and would thus be entirely out of the question.

The following is a summary of Applicant's objections to the Examiner's argumentation:

1. The Examiner has overlooked the fact that there is absolutely no roller throw-on and throw-off bearing in Blaine for throwing the applicator roller 14 on the rubber blanket cylinder 11, and that throwing the applicator roller 14 on the rubber blanket cylinder 11 is not at all possible because the applicator roller 14 can instead only be thrown on the form cylinder 10.

2. Since there is no joint (for example an elongated hole) with a dead thrust travel in Blaine, the Examiner has additionally cited Wadlinger without taking into consideration the fact that the elongated hole in Wadlinger is part of a mechanism for adjusting a sheet guiding element and not of a mechanism for adjusting a roller or cylinder. The Examiner has principally combined two devices which have nothing in common with one another.

3. When explaining the ordinarily skilled artisan's alleged motivation for combining the references to Blaine and Wadlinger, the Examiner mentioned an advantage (better positioning control of the coupling drive in Blaine) which is not achieved if one were to use the elongated hole in Wadlinger in the mechanism in Blaine. Contrary to the Examiner's assumption, such a use would lead to inaccuracies in

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the positioning control of the coupling drive in Blaine and would therefore be disadvantageous. In other words, the ordinarily skilled artisan starting out with Blaine would avoid unnecessary play in the mechanism of Blaine so as to make it operate more precisely. However, by using the elongated hole of Wadlinger in the mechanism of Blaine as suggested in the Office action, unnecessary play would become part of the mechanism. .

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the original claims are patentable over the prior art.

Clearly, neither Blaine nor Wadlinger show a roller throw-on and throw-off bearing for throwing an applicator roller on and off a form and/or blanket cylinder and a thrust joint having a dead thrust travel and articulately connecting an actuating element to a coupler, as recited in claims 1 and 8 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 8. Claims 1 and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are solicited.

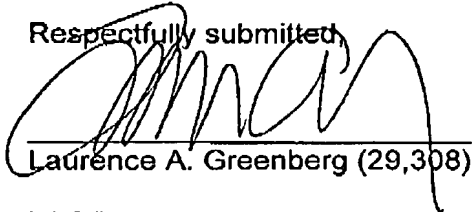
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Sterner LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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LAG/lq

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